

A
 REVIEW
 OF THE
 STATE
 OF THE
 BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, July 6. 1708.

AND did I promise you Victory in my last? Truly I am no Prophet, nor the Son of a Prophet; but O ye faithless Generation, how long will ye oppose your own Light; ye may have Victory now, JUST NOW, if you will but fetch it, if you will but go out of your common Road for it, and but a little way out of it neither; and no longer to amuse you with these things, pray be pleas'd to examine a little the Affairs of *Europe*, as they now present themselves.

We have been viewing things all the Winter in Perspective at a Distance and remote; and many a vain Hope, and many a true Fear we have suggested to our selves; the Scene is now open'd, and every thing appears just as it really is, without any

Regard to how it has been represented, for after all let us put never so many false Glosses upon Affairs, and draw never so many wild Schemes; THINGS are the Consequences of direct Causes, not the Effects of remote Notions, and they will follow their Causes, let our Fancies lead them which way we please.

Thus it is manifest, our Hopes prove empty on one hand, our Fears are disappointed on the other; where we flatter'd our selves the *French* would be weak, there we find them strong; where we fear'd they would be strong, there we find them weak, and yet neither in the one nor the other is our Management the Cause of it.

In *Flanders* we flatter'd our selves, they would not be able to face us, and yet there we

we find them superiour to us, and upon every Occasion ready for us, upon every Attempt we make, and out-numbring us in the Field every where: In *Spain* we had reason to apprehend them, and the Preparations they made to have three Armies in the Field, gave thinking People great Cause to doubt the Effect, even but of one Campaign; *Portugal* we gave over for lost, and expected the King of *Spain* there in the Frontiers, in Person with 35000 Men, against whom we knew the *Portuguese* could not bring 15000 Men into the Field: And now we find them able to do nothing any where on the Frontiers of *Portugal*; the *Portuguese* are equal to them, if not superiour; in *Catalognia* they are baulk'd for Want of Supplies, and in short, Want of Money has ruin'd all the Prospect of the *Spaniards*, and the Delay of the Galeons has broke their Measures.

Would you then have Victory, you may easily see the way to it; What has baulk'd the Campaign on the Frontiers of *Portugal*, what has kept *Phillip V.* from taking the Field in *Estremadura*, what has disappointed the Duke *De Noailles*, and broke all the Measures of the Duke of *Orleans*? Want of Money, nothing but Want of Money. The Stay of the Galeons, who were long expected, and had they arriv'd 5 Months ago, as they easily might for any thing we could do to hinder them, had they arriv'd, I say, you had found King *Charles* push'd to all Extremities, and *Portugal* reduc'd to another Condition than they are now in.

Would you have Victory, then you have nothing to do but go fetch home the Galeons, and you fetch Victory; get but their Silver, you defeat all their Projects, and prevent all their Conquests; in short, if you get but the *Spanish* Plate Fleet, you recover *Spain* in two Years, *France* cannot support her, nor can *Spain* defend her self; the Money is the Victory, and without you do nothing.

And why is this so difficult a Thing? Why should not thirty Men of War sent thither, effectually prevent that Fleet coming away, as well as twenty Men of War sent for them should bring them away? It is plain, if you cannot bring them with

you, you would make them afraid to come away, if you appear'd on that Coast, and to delay them another Year, would be almost as effectual a Disappointment to the Enemy as their Loss.

All the Backwardness of the *French* Affairs in *Spain* is owing purely to the Stay of that Supply; had the Duke of *Orleans* had his Share of the Money they had brought, I would be loth to say, what I think had been the Effect of it. The Galeons frequently bring home 8 Millions of Pieces of 8 for the King, with which the Indultr's and Invasions he makes upon the Merchant on extraordinary Occasions, sometimes amounts to 10 Millions; had they had this Supply in *Spain* in Time, it had not been sending 10 or 12000 Men to *Catalognia*, would have supported King *Charles*, I doubt, he would have had Quarters there before now.

The Consequence, the Want of this has been of to the *Spaniard*, enforces what I say with undeniable Strength; I have nothing to do with Methods, tho' I could enter upon that too, and perhaps might prove the Galeons not so uncomatable, as some People imagine; but take your own Methods, do but do it, there is Victory for you; if you will not fetch it, you can blame no Body for going without it; Victory will not always drop into our Mouths, as it did at *Vigo*, which Somebody has Cause to thank GOD for, or else they might have long ago dreamt of the Gallows.

But this is talking at a distance now, says a Complainer, we want a Victory in *Flanders*, a fighting Victory, another *Ramellies*, a general Battle, and you bid us before go ask Prince *Eugene*, Review, No. — Now Prince *Eugene* is come to the Army, and all we pretended to expect, is ready, now where is the Victory you talk'd of?

Well, well, Gentlemen, have Patience, a little Patience will tell you more of that too; in the mean time let me note one thing to you, that most of those People that are so impatient for Victory, and raise Discontents at the Delay of it, are of the Number of those, that are as willing as any Body, that we should not have it at all; Of which hereafter.

MISCELLANEA.

Mad Man. **H**O, Mr. Review, Mr. Review, you have not talk'd with your mad Man of late, will you let us have a Word or two with you ?

Review. You went too far about, you were for proving all the World mad ; what have we to do with all the World, or their Madness, as long as we are SOBER at home ? It is nothing to me, if the S——s are mad, or the M——s mad, if the P——s are mad, or the H——s mad— as long as we are sober, I am very well pleas'd ; let us let the mad World alone— And this is the very Reason I have not talk'd with you of late, nor cared much to talk with you.

M. Nay, nay, not so sober neither ; I know no where that you are very sober, unless it be in Flanders, there they say, we are all pretty sober— I wish it may be no soberer than we should be.

Rev. Not so very sober there neither, more than in other Places ; if you will have Patience, we may shew you some Difference in the Face of Affairs there very quickly.

M. Wisely done again ! Ask a mad Man to have Patience.

Rev. Why truly, it is one of the Signals of the Ages Lunacy, that they have no Patience ; but as soon as ever the Armies come into the Field, they must fight, or else all is wrong, and then we fly out in a thousand Extravagancies against the Generals.

M. Nay, that is not all, they must not only fight, but they must fight when there is no Body to fight with them.

Rev. Nay, now you talk madly again ; for there is the French Army to fight with, there are People enough to fight with, and a few too many.

M. I say there is no Body to fight with ; for there is no Body but the French, and they won't fight with us, so it is all one as if there was no Body to fight with, for there is no Body for us to fight with, - but those that won't fight, and that is all one with no Body at all. Pray, who is mad now ?

Rev. Well, we must make them fight ; if they won't fight with us, we must fight with them, for we must fight with somebody, or else the People here will be mad, and fight with one another.

M. Right-madly spoken indeed that was, make 100000 Men fight whether they will or no ; is that the Test of your Judgment, Mr. Review, pray how long have you been come out of Bedlam ? If I had my Memory about me, but mad Men you know are not Masters of that Faculty. I could tell you, how Gustavus Adolphus the Famous Champion of German Liberty encamped at Nuremberg with but 22000 Men, and Count Wallenstein the Imperial General could never make him fight, nor attack him in his Camp in four Months, tho' he had 60000 about him. Again, I could tell you, when the Duke of Parma, with not more than 18000 Men relieved Paris, besieged by Henry the Great with 44000 Men, open'd a Way for his Convoys to the Town, and put in a Spanish Garrison— And all this in the View of the King of Navarre's Army, and yet made his Retreat 100 Miles from Paris to Valenciennes without fighting.

Rev. Do you talk now like a mad Man ?

M. Always, Mr. Review, when you talk madly, it is my turn to be sober.

Rev. But you mistake me, I am telling you of our Peoples Uneasiness, because there is yet no fighting in Flanders, their Impatience is intollerable for Want of a Battle ; nothing but a Battle can appease them.

M. Then the People are mad, and all Men are mad that expect a Battle in Flanders ; no, with all your Prince Eugene's and his Armies of 40000 Men, joyn'd with the Duke of Marlborough's 80000, unless the French come out of their Fastnesses, and accept of a Battle, you can have no such thing as a Battle.

Rev. Well, but perhaps the French may do so ; it is not the first Time they have done it in Confidence of their Advantages, and have been deceiv'd, and you know what they have paid for it.

M. If